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New Documents Will Assist Teachers Facing Changes in Curriculum Standards!

GRANVILLE, OH. Some 2.8 million teachers in Ohio and 47 other states and 2 US territories have an opportunity to adapt their curricula in Mathematics and Reading & Writing Across the Curriculum to the new National Standards, which were finalized and made public this summer. Teachers in Ohio and other states will be implementing changes in state-level Standards for Science and Social Studies, also finalized this summer.

Dr. David Silverberg of Ashland University, Ashland, OH, has created a series of manuals called *STEPS Standard Themes for Educational Progress™*, which will make the process of adapting to the new Standards quick and easy for teachers in all grade levels. Feedback from teachers who have used Dr. Silverberg's first set of *STEPS* manuals--created in 2008--in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies for teachers in Ohio and Illinois indicate improvements on standardized test scores of up to 10%!

"It is a great, useful, teacher-friendly document that supports our understanding of shared responsibility across grade levels." – Terri Jewett, Elementary Curriculum Director, Ashland City Schools (Ohio)

STEPS Standard Themes for Educational Progress™ are Standards-based manuals that have reorganized learning objectives into teacher-friendly themes. The themes are vertically aligned to display the progression of content and skill mastery through a child's entire school career. Ohio manuals cover the themes across the entire PreK-12 spectrum.

"It's really good stuff! I can see many ways that we can use the STEPS to clarify connections. I think it will also help us determine how much time should be spent on certain units. This document will definitely be useful." – Sheryl Budd, Biology Teacher, Ashland High School (Ohio)

Each manual features a different content area based on national or state-specific expectations. The text also features tables that identify the number of objectives at each grade level within each learning strand in the curriculum. This evidences previously unidentified gaps in the learning progression. Each manual was developed with feedback from teacher focus groups and content-area experts with the intent of creating a user-friendly, high-impact resource for improved instruction, differentiation, and professional development.

"...this tool is very beneficial and is referred to daily!"
– Nicole Cassell, 5th Grade Teacher, Keystone Elementary School (Ohio)

STEPS manuals measure 8.5x11 inches, are spiral bound on the top, and hole-punched which allows them to conveniently hang like a calendar in any classroom or administrative office. The new *STEPS* manuals for National Standards in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Reading & Writing Across the Curriculum--along with revised *STEPS* manuals for Ohio's Science and Social Studies Standards--will be available early in 2011. *STEPS* manuals are already available and in use in Illinois and scheduled for release soon in California.

A full description of the *STEPS* manuals, along with sample pages, testimonials, and ordering information may be found at www.mwpubco.com/titles/STEPS.htm.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. David A. Silverberg, born in Burbank, CA, received his BA from Wesleyan University, CT, and both his MS (Educational Leadership and Administration) and Ed.D. (Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy) from Pepperdine University, CA. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Schar College of Education, Ashland University, Ashland, OH, and specializes in Standards-based instruction, vertical alignment, and differentiation. He conducts professional development workshops on the *STEPS* for Mathematics, Language Arts, Reading & Writing Across the Curriculum, Science, and Social Studies, and has made presentations at state, national, and international conferences. Dr. Silverberg teaches courses on contemporary Methods and Assessment. He is married, has two children, and lives in Medina, Ohio.

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